

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5, 20, 21, 23-25, and 38-54 are pending. Claims 6-18, 22, 26-37, and 42-54 are indicated to be allowable. Claims 4-5, 24, and 40-41 are indicated to be allowable if placed in independent form.

In response, applicant has placed claims 4, 24, and 40 in independent form. Claim 5 depends from claim 4, and claim 41 depends from claim 40. Applicant therefore requests that claims 4-5, 24, and 40-41 as amended be allowed.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 20-21, 23, 25, and 38-39 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. patent no. 4,829,563 (Crockett et al.) in view of U.S. patent no. 5,341,412 (Ramot et al.). In response, applicant has amended independent claims 1, 20, and 21 to recite his invention with greater particularity. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1, claims 38-39 depend from claim 20, and claims 23, 25 depend from claim 21. Support for the amendment can be found in the drawing at, e.g., Fig. 1, steps 204 and 214-218, and in the specification at, e.g., page 7, line 28, to page 8, line 5, and page 12, lines 1-14.

Neither Crockett et al. nor Ramot et al., taken either alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest the invention as claimed in claims 1-3, 20-21, 23, 25, and 38-39 as amended. Applicant therefore requests that the Section 103(a) rejection of these claims as amended be withdrawn.

The Examiner's objection and rejection having been properly addressed and disposed of, applicant suggests that the application is now

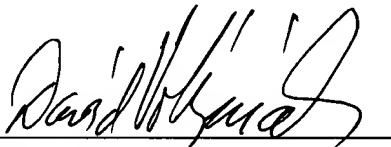
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in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore requests that the application be reconsidered and thereafter be passed to issue.

Applicant believes the foregoing to dispose of all issues in the application. But, if the Examiner should deem that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution, he is invited to call applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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